

gay COMMUNITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 24-30, 1989

VOLUME 17

NO 11

BIRAD: 65498

\$1.00

FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

ACT UP takes Wall St.

Burroughs-Wellcome cuts the cost of AZT on the heels of a dramatic demonstration at the Stock Exchange

By Sydney Pokorny

NEW YORK — A week after the start of a concerted protest by ACT UP/New York over the cost of the drug AZT, Burroughs-Wellcome — which manufactures the drug — announced it is reducing the cost of the drug by 20 percent, bringing the annual cost of a prescription down to \$6400. While pleased by the partial victory, AIDS activists claim the cost is still exorbitant and pledge to push the pharmaceutical company further.



Angry members of ACT UP shout "Shame!"

Seven members of ACT UP/New York were arrested Sept. 14 inside the New York Stock Exchange during an action to protest the price of AZT. The seven men entered the Stock Exchange using false identification. Five of them then moved to the VIP balcony where they unfurled a banner which read

Continued on page 3

Political activists face prison term

A current member and a former member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee say they will go to jail before they will comply with a federal grand jury

By Jennie McKnight

CHICAGO — Two members of militant socialist political groups face imprisonment if they continue to refuse to cooperate with a federal grand jury investigation here. The activists, Henry (Camomile) Bortman, and Bob Wells, were subpoenaed July 25 by a federal grand jury investigating alleged death threats sent to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago.

The death threats were sent on phony letterhead of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee. Wells, who is currently a member of John Brown in Chicago, said he was told he was subpoenaed because his name is on the group's post office box there. Bortman, who is gay and a former member of John Brown, said he was told he was subpoenaed because his name is still connected with the San Francisco chapter's post office box. Bortman is currently a member of the

Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, which describes itself as "an anti-imperialist organization active in the women's, AIDS, gay liberation and anti-racist movements." Bortman is also a member of Stop AIDS Now or Else (SANOE), a San Francisco AIDS activist group.

When they were originally subpoenaed, both men were asked to provide John Brown stationery, leaflets and newspapers. In addition, Wells was asked to testify before the grand jury and provide fingerprints, saliva and handwriting samples. Both men refused to meet the demands of the panel, claiming the grand jury was more interested in political intimidation than actually investigating a crime. They said the FBI, which is investigating the threats, has acknowledged the letterhead is fake, and

Continued on page 9



Goodbye Freddie Greenfield

A farewell to the gay junkie poet of Boston and Key West

From Sharpeville to Stonewall

Simon Nkoli's Boston appearance draws hundreds and sparks renewed coalitions

By Jennifer Wofford

CAMBRIDGE — Over 500 local activists gathered September 16 for an historic conference inspired by a visit from Black gay South African anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli. "Sharpeville/Stonewall: Building Liberation Coalitions" was organized by a multi-racial group of 15 lesbians and gay men primarily representing the National Coalition for Black Lesbian and Gays and Men of All Colors Together/Boston. Organizers pulled together a day-long series of workshops, a cultural event with food from the African Diaspora and a strategy meeting of endorsers of the event, as well as the main event of Nkoli's speech. Their goal was to foster and celebrate the "visible and powerful" link Nkoli symbolizes between gay people of all races in the U.S. and foes of apartheid of all sexualities in South Africa. "Simon himself embodies the politics the coalition is working for, and Simon also has been a catalyst for bringing those issues to light," said organizer Jacqui Alexander.

Joining the National Coalition and Men of All Colors as sponsors of the event were the Women's Studies Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Multicultural AIDS Coalition. The weekend was endorsed by over 50 progressive groups ranging from the Fund for a Free South Africa to *Gay Community News* to New Words women's bookstore.

Nkoli, who was imprisoned for four years in South Africa on charges of conspiring against the government (see *GCN*, Sept. 3, 1989), came to Boston on the second to last stop of his whirlwind 26 city speaking tour of Europe, Canada and the U.S. (The U.S. leg of the tour was sponsored by the National Association of Black and White Men Together.) He was introduced to the capacity crowd at MIT's Sala de Puerto Rico by Thembu Vilakazi of the Fund for a Free South Africa. Vilakazi praised Nkoli's work against apartheid and against the oppression



Simon Nkoli speaks in Boston, Sept. 16

of gay people. "It takes a lot to struggle [against apartheid], yet there is some solace in struggle [with] the support of the community. But if you declare yourself gay, it takes extra courage. Certainly Simon's case exemplifies a man who paid so much and was willing to go an extra measure."

Nkoli talked with passion and humor about his work against apartheid and "coming out" to family, friends and comrades. To cheers and raised fists, he told the packed hall, "Freedom is what we want in that country and that is what we are going to get!" Describing the events that led to his arrest, Nkoli said that in June of 1984 the local council in his Soweto township announced that rents were going to be increased. Nkoli helped organize a peaceful march in opposition to the increases. Thirty people were killed by police at the march, including one young man who simply passed by the area. The funeral for the murdered young man was declared illegal and 500 people were arrested.

Continued on page 11

NEWSNOTES

Quote of the week

"Mother is so worried. In a deathly voice, she phoned me this morning and asked me, 'Dahling, are they going to book you in jail?' I told her I hoped not. I have claustrophobia and would be very unhappy in jail. And besides, they are all lesbians in jail and I'm so scared of lesbians. Can you imagine being in jail with all those women?"

— Zsa Zsa Gabor on the possibility that she might be convicted of hitting a police officer, in the Boston Herald. Gabor is charged with slapping an officer after he pulled her over June 14 because of an expired registration tag on her Rolls-Royce convertible. Gabor's trial began earlier this month.

Lesbian group opens office

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — The Grupo Lesbico Patlagonalli has inaugurated a new "Casa Lesbica" at Belgica 672-B. The group feels that it is important to provide a safe, secure and private gathering place for women who are not openly lesbian. With lots of enthusiasm, but very little money, the group has managed to rent a space with an office and a meeting room. Patlagonalli has decorated the new place with couches, chairs, tables, posters, photographs, and lots of plants.

Patlagonalli offers a number of services including psychological and legal consultations, and workshops on Personal Defense, Lesbian Identity, Lesbian Mothers, and Lesbian Art and Feminist Creativity. Patlagonalli invites people to write and visit their new location, and the group appreciates donations for its Library for Women. For more information, contact Grupo Patlagonalli; Apartado Postal I-623, 44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

□ John Hubert

Boston volunteers needed for AIDS units

BOSTON — Lemuel Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain is seeking volunteers for work in its AIDS units. Some of the PWAs have no family in the vicinity, and volunteers are needed to visit with them, play cards and other games, and help with writing letters, among other things. The hospital offers free training and a support group for people working with PWAs. People are requested to volunteer 2-3 hours a week; days, evenings or weekends. For more information, contact Patrick at 522-8110, ext. 502.

□ Mike Riegle

Gay group files suit against HUD

SAN FRANCISCO — National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) filed suit Sept. 19 against the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for refusing to fund a housing project for people with AIDS (PWAs) in Santa Clara County. Housing for Independent People (HIP) of San Jose requested a \$999,000 loan to establish "Casa de los Amigos," a 24-unit independent living facility for PWAs. HUD refused to consider the request, claiming that the Section 202 funds that would have been used for the project are designed to benefit persons with illnesses that are "long-continued and indefinite," and implying that people with AIDS and ARC do not live long enough to qualify. HUD has rejected all requests for Section 202 funds for PWA housing, including proposals from organizations in Boston, New York City, and Los Angeles.

Benjamin Schatz of the NGRA, who is representing HIP, says that HUD's contention that PWAs die too quickly to benefit from such a program is "an obscene stereotype" and a "potentially fatal prejudice." Schatz said "Access to housing is a matter of life and death for PWAs. I'm appalled that HUD is going out of their way to court

more scandal. HUD is fighting against PWAs in an obscene abdication of their responsibility." He pointed out that the recently passed Americans with Disabilities Act specifically includes PWAs (see *GCN*, Sept. 17). Ironically, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Stewart McKinney (R-Conn.) died of AIDS last year.

The NGRA suit, filed on behalf of HIP and two individuals, calls for a review of HUD's action, and charges HUD with discrimination and violation of the Fair Housing Act. NGRA has also requested a temporary restraining order to prevent HUD from spending money on other projects before the end of the federal fiscal year, Sept. 30. Schatz is confident that the suit will be won, and claims "a victory in this case will have a national impact on PWA access to government sponsored housing."

□ Michael Botkin

Corcoran apologizes

WASHINGTON — After enduring months of steadily building criticism from the gay community, defenders of freedom of expression, and perhaps most importantly, the artistic community, the Corcoran Gallery of Art has apologized for cancelling the Robert Mapplethorpe exhibit in June. (See *GCN*, July 2, 1989.)

In a statement issued September 18, the museum explained its original motive for the cancellation, according to the *New York Times*. "The Corcoran Gallery of Art, in attempting to defuse the N.E.A. [National Endowment for the Arts] funding controversy by removing itself from the political spotlight, has instead found itself in the center of controversy. By withdrawing from the Mapplethorpe exhibit, we, the board of trustees and the director, have inadvertently offended many members of the arts community, which we deeply regret. Our course in the future will be to support art, artists and freedom of artistic expression."

Among the members of the artistic community the museum inadvertently offended are at least two artists who withdrew their work from large scheduled exhibitions. Cancelled memberships and boycotts have hurt the institution financially — not to mention the announcement by artist Lowell Nesbitt that he had cut the Corcoran out of his will, to the tune of a \$1.5 million. And last week the museum's chief curator, Jane Livingston, who had organized the Mapplethorpe exhibit, quit her job.

While the Corcoran tries to repair its damaged reputation, legislators down the street continue to wrangle about how to handle the NEA funding debacle. Although the censorship charge led by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) was symbolically spurned by the House last week, the conference committee finalizing budget appropriations has yet to issue its decision on whether and how to alter NEA funding.

□ Jennie McKnight

One more drag at NY hospital

NEW YORK — A gay man dressed in drag who was attacked by gay-bashers at New York's Wigstock celebration was later harassed at St. Vincent's Hospital.

The man, Darren Britten, had a fracture in his back when he was taken to St. Vincent's by a friend who was also in drag, according to the *Village Voice*. Britten was verbally harassed and his friend was ejected from the emergency room by rubber-gloved attendants.

St. Vincent's, which is located in Greenwich Village and serves a large gay and lesbian community, came under fire early this year when the *Village Voice* publicized two anti-gay incidents that happened late in 1988. (See *GCN*, Feb. 5, 1989.) As a result of community protests, the hospital agreed to sensitivity training for its staff. Ironically, Britten is an employee of the organization hired by St. Vincent's to conduct the sensitivity training — Hetrick-Martin Institute. According to the *Voice*, the training has been stalled because some senior staff at the hospital have been uncooperative.

□ Jennie McKnight

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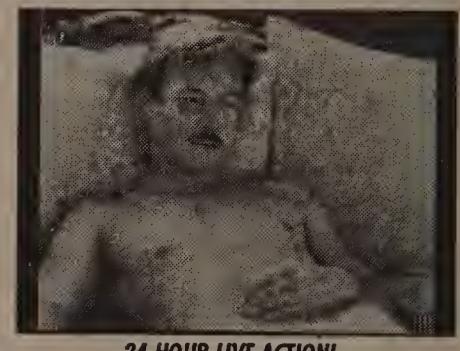


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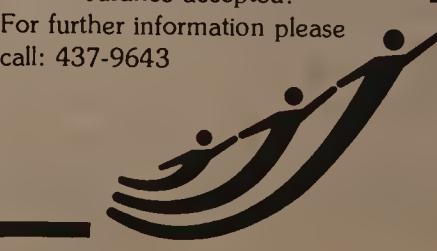
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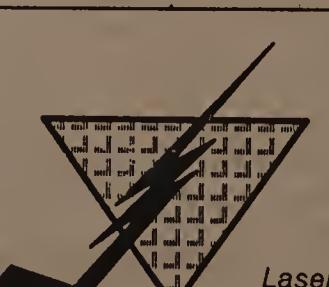
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Confidentiality is key issue at forum

By Jim Kiely and Carrie Wofford

BOSTON — Over 80 AIDS activists attended a panel presentation and open forum Sept. 14 on a controversial partner notification bill (H.226) now pending action by the state Senate. Though participants were unanimous in their opposition to the bill, issues raised by lesbians and a number of comments made by gay men pointed to social and cultural issues that divide them.

Essentially, H.226 calls for a revamping of the client/physician relationship. If put into effect, the law would make it acceptable for physicians to notify the current sexual partners of people who are HIV positive that they may be at risk for HIV transmission. H.226 would also make it legally acceptable for physicians to notify medical providers that a person they are treating is seropositive.

According to Karen Hudner of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (CLUM), under current state law physicians may reveal to health care workers information relevant to any disease a client may have. However, under the law HIV-positivity is not considered a disease. For that reason, the antibody status of a client cannot be revealed by a physician without the expressed, written consent of the client. This stipulation also applies to partner notification: without the client's permission, it cannot be done.

At the forum, Denise McWilliams of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), spoke in favor of the bill. Speaking against it were Diane Raymond, ethics professor from Simmons College; Tom Reeves, sociologist from Roxbury Community College and ACT UP/Boston member; and Lee Swislow, former Nurse Coordinator at Boston City Hospital.

Reeves said that his opposition to H.226 hinges on the matter of confidentiality. He alluded to the history of gay men and lesbians respecting the privacy of each other's sexual orientation by not "naming names," and said that "confidentiality is an integral

part of our identity... It is so essential that we [as a community] cannot compromise it, as this bill does."

In her defense of H.226, McWilliams cited a number of social issues, including the lack of health information making its way to heterosexuals. Because popular culture has defined AIDS as a syndrome affecting only gay men and IV users, McWilliams argued, most heterosexuals do not perceive themselves as being at any risk for HIV-transmission. This problem is particularly acute among heterosexual women, she said. "Thirty percent of all women with AIDS get it [test HIV positive] through heterosexual sex," said McWilliams. With this being the case, she advised the audience that "we as a community cannot afford to keep thinking that AIDS is only our problem."

In an interview with *GCN* after the meeting, McWilliams said that one difference between mainstream gay consciousness about AIDS and that of heterosexual women is that the former has made safer sex and AIDS information readily available to its members. She does not believe, however, that merely providing heterosexual women with more information is enough to compel them to practice safer sex. There has to be some motivating factor that leads people to integrate information with personal behavior. She said "The gay community has suffered tremendous loss. And it's from this tragedy that it has become fully aware of the consequences of risky sexual practices." In lieu of this motivating factor, McWilliams believes that telling a woman that her partner is sero positive may sometimes be the only way for her to become fully cognizant of safer sex guidelines.

Panelist Lee Swislow agreed with many of the issues raised by McWilliams, but stated her opposition to H.226. At the beginning of her presentation, she said "On the one hand [I] feel tremendous affinity for the issues raised for women and partner notification.

Continued on page II

Rights bill moves forward

By Carrie Wofford

BOSTON — Following months of aggressive lobbying and grassroots pressure from gay men and lesbians this year, advocates of the gay and lesbian civil rights bill are gearing up for what they say will be the largest rally ever staged in support of the 17-year-old bill. More than 1000 supporters of the gay and lesbian civil rights bill, H.5427, are expected to rally outside the State House Oct. 3 at 5:30 p.m.

The gay rights bill would make it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and would amend the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act to give gay men and lesbians civil rights protection in housing, employment, and access to public accommodations.

Currently in its final committee, the Senate Committee on Third Reading, the bill is expected to be released on the Senate floor for a final vote soon after the legislators return from their summer recess Sept. 25. Lobbyists for the bill say they are encouraged because the bill has reached this stage quickly, with months still left on the legislative calendar, and they predicting victory this year.

When the bill is released on the Senate floor, however, opponents "will load all the amendments they can," said David LaFontaine, lobbyist for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. He added "It'll be a repeat of before." (The first time the bill came up on the Senate floor this year in July, opponents layered the bill with amendments and utilized traditional parliamentary delaying tactics.)

Since a majority of Senators have indicated support for the bill, it is expected to pass in the Senate. If the bill does pass, the key question will be whether to accept the Senate version of the bill with all of its amendments and send it to the House for final passage or to push for it to be sent to a Conference Committee, where three members each of the House and Senate would try to draft a bill balancing the House version with the Senate version.

The House version of the bill is relatively "clean," but the Senate has already accepted two amendments which would deny gay men and lesbians civil rights protection

in the areas of foster care and domestic partners benefits. Because of these amendments, some supporters of the bill are pushing to send it to a conference committee.

Because the committee could hold the bill for an indefinite amount of time and because opponents of the bill could be appointed to the committee, "Most legislators agree it's a phase where bills can die," said LaFontaine. "[Chief House Sponsor Mark] Roosevelt and [Chief Senate Sponsor] Barrett are afraid we'll lose it if we go to Conference Committee.... We're in a bind here because when the co-sponsors don't want to do something, we can't force them." (Roosevelt feels discussion of conferencing is "premature.... We don't know what the bill is going to look like when it comes out of the Senate — no less if it is going to come out of the Senate.")

Yet, other supporters of the bill point out that the foster care and domestic partner benefits amendments are potentially damaging, and would become law if the bill passes as is. "The foster care amendment is pretty awful; [it] seems to codify existing regulations that we're trying to change," wrote attorney Katherine Triantafillou in a letter to LaFontaine. BU law professor Robert Vogel also told LaFontaine that he believes the partner benefits amendment is "disturbing."

As the bill nears consideration in the Senate, LaFontaine suggested that "we should continue talking to lawyers. We probably should [also] have some community forum." Triantafillou added, "I really think these amendments need some publicity about what's in them. It's important...to get them out to the community" for more scrutiny about their potential effects.

But LaFontaine reiterated the success of the bill so far this year, and pointed out that it sped through the House and Senate committees before summer recess. "Everything is because of large scale community pressure. Hundreds of letters were sent to the committees.... Two years ago people didn't really know about the bill. This year [gay and lesbian voters] were more sophisticated, and that impresses legislators." □



AIDS demonstrators disrupt opera-goers' night out, Sept. 8

A night at the opera

San Fran AIDS protesters dramatically disrupt the city's social event of the season

By Tede Matthews

SAN FRANCISCO — Over 50 AIDS demonstrators delayed the opening night festivities of the city's major social event of the year Sept. 8. As San Francisco's rich and powerful elite gathered to watch the first San Francisco Opera production of the season, members of Stop AIDS Now or Else (SANOE), Opera House Chapter, called upon the influential wealthy to use their power and resources to force changes in local, state and federal government AIDS policies.

The demonstrators purchased \$15 standing room tickets. As the lights were lowered, they blew whistles and chanted. They marched down the center two orchestra aisles and unfurled banners which read "AIDS = GENOCIDE, SILENCE = DEATH, FIGHT BACK" and "YOU HAVE THE POWER, STOP AIDS NOW OR ELSE." Flyers were passed out in the balcony and orchestra sections as thousands of pink triangles fluttered down from the balcony.

The opera patrons first reacted with stunned silence. A few people, mostly in the lower-priced balcony seats, applauded tentatively, but the majority of the audience began to boo loudly and attempted to drown out the demonstrators. Three elderly society women reportedly clawed at a protester's eyes, and a lesbian activist was punched in the mouth. One bejeweled opera goer maced not only demonstrators, but also a back-up singer for the opera.

In an apparent effort to regain control of the situation, the conductor struck up the "Star Spangled Banner." The audience sang the anthem with patriotic fervor as the AIDS activists blared their whistles. After the anthem was over the demonstrators marched out chanting "We're here, we're queer, stop AIDS now."

Although television news coverage was fairly balanced, the city's two daily newspapers, the *Examiner* and the *Chronicle*, printed incorrect information and, according to members of SANOE, completely distorted the aims and tactics of the group.

The *Chronicle* reported that the action "...became a riot, complete with SWAT officers, shrieking socialites and jostling between chanting rowdies and tuxedo-clad men." (Neither SWAT nor riot police ever showed up as SANOE members lingered on the Opera House steps, passing out leaflets and posing for photos.) The article also stated that "demonstrators punched and

shoved members of the audience" and "a demonstrator even sprayed tear gas in the face of one of the opera singers." Three days after the demonstration SANOE held a press conference in which members of the group denounced the *Chronicle's* coverage, the paper repeated the accusations of violence by demonstrators in an editorial. Following a meeting between *Chronicle* staff and SANOE spokespeople, the *Chronicle* printed a page two retraction the day after the editorial appeared. The retraction said that "the article incorrectly asserted that police herded demonstrators from the hall and issued citations."

SANOE had anticipated that debate over the action itself might overshadow the group's message. In order to convey that message, SANOE produced a "program" for its show-stopping protest. The program was titled "AIDS — The Epidemic: A Dramatic Evening in Three Acts."

ACT I, Scene One states that the current AIDS crisis is "a state of emergency." Scene Two decries the lack of federal funds for patient care and treatment as well as Governor George Deukmejian's (R) recent \$55 million cut from the state's AIDS budget. SANOE condemned U.S. inaction, both domestic and internationally, as genocide.

ACT II, Scene One states, "We want you, as people with access to power and resources, to make changes in federal and local government priorities." Scene Two contrasted the conspicuous wealth of many opera goers with the economic realities of PWAs. "...It's not enough to say that you care, that you've contributed and are 'doing all you can.'" SANOE also denounced the rising rate of violence against lesbians and gay men.

ACT III was the "Grande Finale." It listed these five specific demands:

- Access to quality health care on demand, regardless of ability to pay.
- Access to and community control of experimental drugs and treatments.
- An end to mandatory HIV testing of anyone, including immigrants, prisoners and prostitutes.
- Money for AIDS research, treatment, drugs and patient care.
- An end to police violence against lesbians and gay men in our homes and clubs, at demonstrations and on the street.

SANOE is the same group that blockaded the Golden Gate Bridge for 45 minutes last

Continued on page II

Wall Street

Continued from page I

Describing the prohibitive cost of AZT, especially for people without health insurance, protester Liz Tracey remarked, "These people are faced with a choice between bankruptcy, Medicaid, or a diminished standard of living. What is the point of a drug which is effective, yet the people who need it cannot get it?"

Two weeks earlier, Burroughs-Wellcome representatives were unwilling to disclose profit margins for AZT in a meeting with ACT UP members.

The week after the Stock Exchange protest, Burroughs-Wellcome announced it was cutting the cost of AZT by 20 percent. ACT UP/New York members claim the pharmaceutical company's action was in direct response to ACT UP's activity and the threat

of a nationwide boycott. Peter Staley, a former bond trader, said that Burroughs-Wellcome stock fell as a direct result of the protest.

Although most activists contacted by *GCN* were pleased with the decrease, they still believe the price is too high. Staley called the decrease "a small step in the right direction," while Tracey, an at-large ACT UP representative, said the cost of AZT is still too high, especially because "the loss of governmental subsidies and [health] insurance are a real threat for PWAs."

Some activists see the drug's cost reduction as a shrewd move by Burroughs-Wellcome to placate the gay and lesbian community and to avoid — or at least disrupt — attempts at a nationwide boycott. □

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As an incest survivor...

Dear GCN:

I'm obviously not alone in feeling grateful for Liz Galst's tremendous "Speaking Out" (GCN, August 20-September 2), which helped me recover from the shock of reading Bill Andriette's "Contesting the Sexual Abuse Discourse" (GCN, July 23-29). My thanks, too, to Nina Boal for pointing out the inherent sexism of the "man-boy love" defense (GCN, September 3-9).

As an incest survivor, I cannot share Andriette's perspective on this issue. And, reading Vincent Luti's letter, which ironically follows Boal's, I must say I'm sickened to

see, again, men defending pedophilia and women defending those who have survived sexual abuse, both male and female. Nina Boal wonders why more male survivors aren't talking. The reasons seem to me clear.

First, pedophile ideology discourages their speaking out. People like Andriette glibly conflate consensual and child-adult sex, as if one were as "simple" as the other. This obscures the real obstacle facing male survivors: admitting that boys, like girls, can be had, taken, ripped-off, sexually. Andriette's denial that survivors' shame is widespread would be sad if it weren't so self-righteous, so dependent on men shutting up about their pain, and staying shut up.

Whether some individual older teens can genuinely enjoy sex with adults is, ironically, beside the point here. My complaint is with pedophile ideology in general and with the contempt for children it inspires and articulates. If Bill Andriette really loved boys, he'd be eager to listen to Michael Lew's clients, men who were boys once and who in many cases were injured by precisely the experiences Andriette proudly offers. Instead, Andriette's rhetoric reminds me an awful lot of how rapists talk: there's the same "frisky way" (Luti's term) of dismissing responsibility, the same nonchalance about power, and the same cold scorn for those who resist it.

What bothers me most, though, is how many in our community join ranks with pedophiles in some misguided effort at solidarity. Quick to defend any gay sexual choice, they refuse to look at such choices critically. By calling what he endured "liberating," they further betray the male survivor.

Our community needs to demonstrate that we are ready to listen to the male survivor. Otherwise, he and his defenders won't speak up. The loud male silence around this issue is painful to hear.

Sincerely,
Lissa McLaughlin
Providence, R.I.

A day in the life

Dear GCN:

Being gay here at Angola isn't probably that much different than being gay in a lot of other prisons, until you consider some of the little extra benefits, such as being able to receive bikinis and men's briefs (solid colors only!) through the mail. They can be as revealing as most feminine panties.

We also have more places here to have sex (no, not in our bodies!) because Angola spreads out over 18,000 acres. That's almost 30 square miles of prison! Almost 40 percent of us (mostly Blacks) are facing either a life sentence (which you can get for doing damn little down here!) or what is just as bad, a long sentence without a real chance of parole (in spite of the overcrowding). Those of us who have jobs earn 4 cents an hour! So us girls who have been abandoned by our families have to do something to get the finer things of life (like Camel cigarettes, coffee, soft drinks, munchies and clothes).

Enter sex. Even the 'straights' will eventually bend to their desires and succumb to the idea of entering into an illicit sex act. But the biggie is when one of the free people (guards) 'hit' on one of us girls to do him a favor. Head, ass or hand. If the situation is right, it is usually some head. Not too long ago, at a unit near here, one of the guards had been coercing one of our sisters into giving him a blow job, until one day came that she bit it off! He lost his dick head, his job and his freedom.

Us 'girls' get blamed for a lot of what happens here, especially if it involves fighting, but what is usually the case is that it is not us doing the bad, but the 'men' who either want a whore or feel that their pride has been injured to the point that violence is necessary. But we are usually the ones who get locked up or transferred.

One of the rules that is flagrantly violated by both straights and gays here is that involving 'altered clothing'. According to the rules, only free-world blue jeans can be altered (made into cut-offs). Nothing else! Yet most, if not all, of the inmates here are wearing altered clothing, clothing that runs the gamut from homemade bikinis to halter-tops to shirts or pants tailored to fit better.

But who is written up [given disciplinary reports] consistently for 'contraband' (altered clothing)? The gays, that's who. They make their rules, and then enforce them when and on whoever they feel like.

The sad thing is that there is no UNITY

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Gay Community News is published weekly (except the last week of April, August and December), by the Bromfield Street Educational Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation. Our office is located at 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. (617) 426-4469. TTY/TDD 426-0332.

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate is \$33. Institutional rate: \$40. ISSN: J0147-0728. Member Gay and Lesbian Press Association, New England Press Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, COSMEP member.

GCN is included in the Alternative Press Index, published quarterly by the Alternative Press Center, Inc., Box 33109, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Volumes 1-15 of GCN are available on microfilm for \$40/volume, \$550/complete set. Write GCN/Microfilm for more information.

"As a weekly with a strong focus on news, this is the paper I rely on to tell me what I need to know about current lesbian and gay issues. Its arts and book reviews and its political analysis are an added bonus."

—Read Weaver
Utne Reader

"The only nationally circulating weekly for lesbians and gay men, GCN provides an important forum for debate on...the gay liberation movement. Read by all activists in the movement,... GCN is one...paper where lesbians and gay men have worked together productively. It is the newspaper of record for the lesbian and gay movement.

—Dan Tsang
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here, not only among the gays, but among all of the inmates. The prison authorities have been very effective at keeping us divided and at each other's throats for so long that it's pathetic.

One last note. There are a lot of inmates here with AIDS and not getting treatment, and a lot more who have it and don't know because the authorities don't want them or others to know, the idea being that this way they will spread it around and kill each other off with it.

Life in the big penitentiary,
A prisoner ('T')

A double standard for Barney Frank?

Dear GCN:

The recent revelations that Congressman Barney Frank hired a hustler present an interesting dilemma for America's gay leadership.

The gay Massachusetts Democrat admitted that it was a mistake for him to hire a male hooker and invite him to stay in his Washington apartment where the hustler, as it turns out, "turned tricks."

Barney Frank had been an articulate spokesman for the rights of gay citizens. However, his stature and integrity have been destroyed by this incident.

If a straight Republican Congressman were caught with a female prostitute, what would happen? There would be howls from gay leaders about a betrayal of the public trust and calls for his resignation. Remarkably, the gay leadership of this country has been silent about Barney Frank.

As a gay Republican I ask one simple question: is there a double standard for gay Democrats?

Fred Olszen
New York, N.Y.

Seeking Elaine Noble

Dear GCN:

This is an open letter to the Massachusetts lesbian and gay community:

I am trying to locate Ms. Elaine Noble, if she wishes to be located, to explore with her the possibility of making a documentary film about her career in elective office in Massachusetts. As you know, Ms. Noble was one of the very first openly lesbian or gay people to be elected in this country, taking office after victory at the polls in 1974.

It is commonly thought and said in the San Francisco Bay Area that Harvey Milk was the first openly gay elected official in the country although his election did not come until November of 1977. In the course of my trying to correct this error of historical fact, it has come to light that an open lesbian was elected in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to the city council in April of 1974, making her the earliest, according to the *Gay Book of Lists* anyway.

What concerns me is that some very informative pieces of our very recent history stand to be lost soon unless we document them in either print or celluloid. We need a comprehensive work on the early lesbian or gay politicians nationwide. Please contact me at 1716 Francisco No. 1, Berkeley CA 94703 with any ideas or information regarding this topic.

For Love and For Life,
Jesse NR Greenman
Berkeley, Calif.

Welcome David Mulligan

Dear GCN:

This week it was announced that David Mulligan has been appointed the new Commissioner of Public Health here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As director of that department's Division of Alcoholism and Drug Rehabilitation, David Mulligan proved to be a tireless advocate of substance abuse services specifically tailored to the needs of gay men and lesbians. Under his leadership the Division utilized the extensive resources of the gay and lesbian community to develop and implement statewide training programs for professionals on the needs of our community for specialized and sensitive services. With Mr. Mulligan's appointment to the position of Commissioner, the gay and lesbian community should welcome the

Abusing the term 'abuse'

By Libby Smith

Childhood abuse — physical, emotional, and sexual — and recovery from it have become major issues in lesbian and gay communities. This is a wonderful and empowering development. But I am disturbed, when I go to a women's or gay bookstore, to see the great preponderance of "self-help" and "recovery" books over books that propose more ordinarily "political" problems and theories. This ratio is disturbing, not because I think the recovery books are useless or unimportant, but because we have neglected the political solutions that should go along with the psychological ones. And those political discussions are important both to survivors of abuse and those of us lucky enough to have escaped such harm.

We often need to discuss our individual families, but we need to recognize and maintain the concept of "the family" as a political structure as well. *Replacing* political debate about "the family" with therapeutic discussions of abuse is, I think, harmful to the survivors of abuse because it contributes to a demeaning of their vocabulary, and thus, their experience. If the only recognized way to discuss the danger and discomfort the family represents is to claim abuse, then the term abuse gets, well, abused. When my parents taught me not to love my body, that was painful and continues to have painful consequences for me. But I am extremely reluctant to use the same word for that and for the rape of a child, or beatings that left bruises or worse. I believe it was exactly this "cheapening" of the term that led Bill Andriette to dismiss the claims of many sexually abused children in his recent column. An appalling number of people have been and

are being abused as children, but not every miserable childhood experience should be described as abuse. I am not suggesting that we should ever challenge one another about whether an experience "counts" as abuse. I would simply like to see additional categories and conversations about our families legitimized and encouraged in our community.

The harm that comes to all of us when we use only the therapeutic language is that, by talking about all negative family experiences as "abuse," we seem to say that, absent physical or emotional violence, the normal family is a happy one. In fact, far too many of us — even those not abused — have experienced our families as inhospitable places. We should be talking about this in a way that does not demean the experiences of survivors. For instance, I was not an abused child. However, that doesn't mean that I always felt supported and loved by my parents. There were many times when I felt alone, abandoned, hurt or betrayed. As a lesbian, I am constantly rejected, in different ways, by my family. I think it is likely that this is the experience of a vast majority of us, and I think that this is important for us, as progressives and as lesbians and gay men, to recognize. We need to remember that Ozzie and Harriet don't exist, but, even more important, that they aren't good for us, and we don't like them.

I would like to see lesbians and gay men being, once again, more critical of the family *per se*. Family issues are being raised in mainstream politics all the time: who is responsible for "delinquent" children? Who is responsible to abused children? Who gets

to decide custody issues, and on what basis? All of these questions suggest that patriarchy/capitalism, if not as close to collapse as we'd like it to be, is not maintaining the hold it used to over these questions. Some things we could think about: the "private ownership" of children (When can responsibility be enforced by the state in this system? When should it be?); custody issues between unmarried (gay, lesbian, or straight) lovers (Is legal adoption by both the best answer? Has it worked for married hets?); what would a constructive policy be towards the problems of poor African-American (and white) families who are unable to maintain themselves (are the real problems the poverty and racism that operate against these families, or is the family itself important to reinforce?). And most importantly, what forms, systems or approaches should we strive toward to create a society that nurtures personal and sexual integrity, equality, and diversity?

Some of these are relatively new questions for the lesbian and gay communities, if only because of recent phenomena such as the lesbian baby boom, but they all hark back to the same problems that led to the slogan "smash the family." They're also questions that I've seen very little discussion of in recent years. I'm willing to concede that smashing the family is far too simplistic a solution to the problems I've suggested, but, hey, it's a start. I'm open to suggestions.

Libby Smith is a graduate student in history at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been active in the gay and feminist movements for ten years.

This time, it's high time

By Charlene Mann

There's something major happening on Beacon Hill this year. It just might be the greatest thing ever for sexual minorities in Massachusetts — or it could be the worst setback we have had in the past twenty years or so. The issue at hand, of course, is the lesbian and gay civil rights bill now before the Senate. Just how great life can be from here out depends directly on whether or not it passes — this year.

Some wise person once said that any nation with no sense of history is no nation at all. Maybe we need to take a look at where we have been while our public "servants" did their thing in (they say) our best interest, but without our active input.

In 1983, this very same bill was in the same position that it is in today. Plenty of votes, but an uncaring Senate committee. But the community failed to rally in support. At that time, there was no real community. The bill had the votes for passage, but virtually nobody on the street even knew it was there. The bill died a quiet death at the hands of the ignorant and indifferent.

The same thing happened again in 1987. In each case, the bill had enough positive votes to insure both House and Senate passage. In each case, the bill died — not because of its having too many enemies in the legislature, but from having too few active friends within the community whose needs it addresses. Again, too few spoke up.

January 4, 1988 marked the end of the apathy. On that day, disgusted with widespread anti-queer discrimination in jobs, housing, and health insurance, over 1000 determined protesters on the steps of the State House rallied to make themselves heard.

Security guards shut down half the spectator seating. Those lucky enough to obtain the remaining seats watched in horror as the Senate put off the civil rights bill yet again. Instead, the Senators took up a bailout bill for Wonderland Park — a local racetrack "tapped out" by routine mismanagement.

Gambling before civil rights? What a priority! The onlookers were shocked to action. One by one, they stood up and made themselves heard to the full Senate. "Excuse me", they asked. "Where is the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill? We have waited seventeen years for our rights. We want our civil rights NOW, please!"

Guards immediately dragged the protesters out of the gallery and into the blinding lights of waiting TV cameras. The entire nation watched in horror as Ray Drew took a Senate goon's Florsheim Imperial square in the belly as he lay passive and helpless on the floor outside the gallery. State police officers without badges took to action as they preyed upon stragglers on the State House steps.

Inside the Senate chambers, several Senators openly cheered the guards to renewed frenzy. But the crowd kept on coming into the State House that night, filling the rotunda area to capacity. The Senators had never seen such a thing before. It impressed them.

The bill died again anyway, but not for lack of votes or community support. This time, the clock ran out. Plain and simple. The rally had taken place at the END of the legislative session — not in the middle, where it belonged.

Let's not let that happen again. This year,

let's be there on October 3rd. The Senate returns from its summer break then. Now, mind you, the self-appointed guardians of the public good are still there. They still look busy when we drop in for a visit — and they still sneer in such sincere tones, "Well, why don't you just go back to the bars or wherever you people live and let the professionals do your legislative work?"

Speaking strictly for myself, I say to hell with them all — even though we actually pay one lobbyist to tell us things like that! Fact: The bill needs to pass the Senate THIS YEAR. Governor Dukakis, a steady supporter of the bill, will not be in office next year. His opposition is predicting victory for the first time since anyone last looked. Now really, do you expect a Republican governor to entitle us as we deserve?

So please phone your Senator and demand the bill's passage today. Please be at the State House as early as possible Tuesday afternoon, October 3. Please be prepared to make your presence known and your voice heard above the mass. Please be prepared to tell your Senator, "Look, we've waited long enough! Do you wish to be reelected? Then PLEASE pass the Bill!"

You can learn to lobby your own Senator yourself that day. Lobby Day starts at 1:00 PM. Training and support is available. The rally starts at 5:30. But when it ends, please bear one thing in mind: this is only the beginning.

Ms. Mann is a direct-care human service worker, peer counsellor, and civil rights activist. In her former male persona (now outgrown), she helped organize the January 1988 State House rally/pig riot.

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Two anti-racist activists face 18 months in jail. No charge. No bail. No trial. No appeal. It can't happen here? It's happening.

TWO ANTI-RACIST ACTIVISTS, BOB WELLS AND Henry "Camo" Bortman face 18 months in prison for refusing to hand over *public literature* of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee—a newspaper and some leaflets—to a federal grand jury in Chicago. Bob is a member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee; a national anti-racist organization opposing the KKK, Nazi skinheads and other right-wing groups. Camo, a former member of the Anti-Klan Committee, is an AIDS activist and a member of Prairie Fire Organizing Committee.

This grand jury claims it's investigating a threatening letter sent to the US Attorney in Chicago on phony John Brown Anti-Klan Committee stationery. The US Attorney also received two similar letters on the equally phony stationery of another political group. All three letters were typed on the same typewriter and mailed at the same time from the same post office.

The FBI told Bob and Camo's attorney it knows the Anti-Klan Committee didn't write the letters. The government admits that Bob and Camo were

subpoenaed merely because their names appear on post office box rental forms of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee. The FBI also knows that all the subpoenaed literature is available in many bookstores. More than likely it already has a complete set in its own files.

IN 1989, WHEN RACIST VIOLENCE IS RESURGENT FROM college campuses to community streets, we wonder why the government is harassing an anti-racist organization. The FBI wants to chip away at our rights to freedom of the press and freedom of association by forcing the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee to hand over public documents *on demand!*

Bob and Camo do not intend to comply with the grand jury's order. When they refuse, a federal judge will cite them for contempt and could send them to jail for up to 18 months—without a charge, without bail, without a trial and with no right to an appeal.

This isn't democracy; it's *political internment*.

DURING THE McCARTHY WITCH-HUNTS OF THE 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee was the main tool for forced interrogation of progressive people. When public pressure shut HUAC down, the grand jury took its place. Beginning with the Nixon administration, grand juries subpoenaed over 1000 witnesses from groups including opponents of the Vietnam War, the Catholic left, the Black, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Native American and women's, lesbian, gay and anti-imperialist movements. We learned that the best way to defeat political grand juries is to refuse to cooperate with them.

This abuse of official power for political purposes is a threat to everyone who is moved to dissent. Many of us are active in groups that rent post office boxes and publish literature. If the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee's flyers are subpoenaed this week, whose will be next?

We urge Attorney General Richard Thornburgh to instruct US Attorney Anton Valukas to drop these subpoenas; we urge Chief US District Court Judge John Grady to quash them.

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Aaron Two-Elk, Native American activist
Watani Tyehimba, grand jury resister; member, New Afrikan People's Organization
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Rev. Michael Yasutake, Director, Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project, National Council of Churches
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Call or write Attorney General Thornburgh (Room 5111, Department of Justice, 10th and Constitution, NW, Washington, DC 20530 202/633-2001) and Judge Grady (Chief Judge, Northern District of Illinois, 219 S. Dearborn, Room 2541, Chicago, IL 60604 312/435-5600). For more information, contact the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, 1340 W. Irving Park Road, Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60613 or Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, PO Box 14422, San Francisco, CA 94122.

GOODBYE FREDDIE

Freddie Greenfield died September 4, 1989 only a few weeks after his autobiographical *Were You Always a Criminal?* was published.

Born June 20, 1929 into a Jewish working-class family in the city of Chelsea, which borders on Boston, he grew up near Revere Beach. His break out of the ghetto came through boxing where he showed promise as a professional contender. From the ring, he soon moved through lovers into the carnival business, where he travelled across the United States.

Freddie was recognized in prisons and "drug rehabilitation centers" as a skilled writer of prescriptions. In the war on drugs he never left the trenches, fighting on the side of the users.

After 1972 he emerged among Boston's counter-culture poets and soon he was involved in Gay Liberation. In 1976, the Good Gay Poets published his collection of poems. Several printers refused to print the book; one claimed that Bibles ran over their presses and they could not contaminate their rollers with *Amusement Business*. (*Amusement Business* is still available from Good Gay Poets, Box 277, Astor Station, Boston, MA 02123.)

He early joined the Fag Rag collective; his verses and those of David Emerson Smith first appeared in *Fag Rag* #12 (Spring, 1975). Freddie celebrated South Boston's male nude beach and his contacts in Florida's Starke Prison. His writings have appeared in every subsequent issue of *Fag*

Rag. In *Fag Rag* #42/43 (1986), he interviewed gay junkie poet Herbert Huncke and wrote an extended meditation on Huncke's work. *Fag Rag* #45 (now in production) will contain unpublished works by Freddie.

After a successful operation for esophageal/stomach cancer in 1984, Freddie turned with great passion to his own autobiography. He had an apparent complete recovery from the operation and moved back and forth between Key West and Boston as he put together details of his past. At the same time he took up fishing in Key West where he was known as a merciless pool player. *Were You Always a Criminal?* came off the printing presses during the end of July and Freddie immediately detected a recurrence of his cancer, which advanced rapidly and inexorably.

At Boston's Brigham & Women's Hospital he sold a copy of *Were You Always a Criminal?* to his doctor. By then the disease had advanced beyond remedy. Robert Dargon, George Dimsey, Eisha Hanifan and other friends took turns at Freddie's bedside until his death in the early morning hours of Labor Day, September 4, 1989.

A Celebration in his memory will be held on Fort Hill, 50 Linwood Street in Roxbury on September 30, 1989, Saturday, at 3pm. For more information call Robert at 617-445-5891.

— Fag Rag Collective: John Wieners, Mike Riegler, Mitzel, S.H., Charley Shively

Last words never last

"Last Words Never Last" was the last piece Freddie wrote; Robert and Eisha found the typed pages among his things. Facing life or death, he never equivocated or faltered. His voice came from his working class, street, Yiddish theater, carnival business, boxing, drug, fag, hustler, prison, gay liberation experience. He never learned to talk or write like a "Christian gentleman" and he never wanted to hear or read such filthy talk. And if the college ladies and gentlemen can't understand him, all the better; they're probably informers, who would turn you in, never turn you on.

— Charley Shively

By Freddie Greenfield

Hello my name is Freddie and I'm a drug addict gay and occasionally use the needle but for the most part I'm content to take my drugs orally also for the most part I gave up the use of drugs 20 years ago having recently starting up again due to medical problems dire medical problems like cancer of the esophagus which was successfully removed 5 years ago so anyways everything was hunky dory so to speak 6 months ago I had a check-up and as far as the doctors could see the cancer was in remission but then two months ago I started having this wave of pain in my throat and when I tried analyzing the pain right away I thought of how when I recently sucked this here guys cock a pretty big cock as cocks go well I let him thrust his cock violently down my throat so I figured could that be the case that he injured my throat but that's ridiculous then also I had these tests done to make sure my blood count was alright and hadn't caught the latest infectious disease that's been on a lot of peoples mind these past few years anyway my report came back negative negative the nurse said I bet you're glad I bet that's big relief to you a big cock a big relief a big relief a big cock I've written about Stanley before Stanley a Greek drug addict small and slight in physical stature with a well pronounced uncircumcised prick between legs well anyway Stanley shot and killed the pharmacist owner of a store on Ferry Street in the Glendale Park area during a robbery attempt the shooting of which came as a complete surprise to me Stanley at the time of this fiasco was an escapee from

Bridgewater a hospital housing besides people classified criminally insane dope fiends alcoholics and those accused of intergenerational sex violations plus remnants of blo boys a group sentanced during the 1930's as what was called defective delinquents young boys whose chief crime was public school truancy plus the most heinous crime of all poverty.

You have to show symptoms everyone sounded said symptoms symptoms withdrawell symptoms in order for them the authorities to give you medication everyone in the prison hospital adopted the official medical personells language medicines in undertones to us was junk dope in this particular case a nazi germany creation called dolophine I'm here for a hop skip and a jump four and a half months voluntarily from the state courts I told those interested in my story secretly longing for some sneaky sex you have to show symptoms symptoms to get medicine medicine to beat the jungle of withdrawell sickness

— Continued on page 9

Compiled
by
Michael Bronski,
Mike Riegler,
and
Charley Shively

Poems by Freddie Greenfield appear on page 8



A young Freddie gives a massage

Freddie's dreams, Freddie's nightmares

Were You Always a Criminal?

Freddie Greenfield
Fag Rag Books
Box 331, Kenmore Station, Boston 02215
\$7.95 paper, 88pp.

Reviewed by Christopher Wittke

"One thing about being jewish in NYC even though I'm originally from Boston is that there were a lot of other jewish dope fiends nearer my age. Dickie for instance. Dickie Wynofsky and plus he was supposed to be gay like I was, only more people, jewish dope fiends, knew about Dickie than knew about me. He'd brag how Gersh punched him around, giggling even how he had all these black and blue marks that Gersh gave him. I think they did a bit together on Hart's Island where the cemetery is."

— From "Dickie's Word Against Anybody's," one of the stories in *Were You Always a Criminal?*

I read the first 15 entries in Freddie Greenfield's book *Were You Always a Criminal?* the day it came out. They went down one after the other, refreshing as ice cold beer on

a sweltering day. But the stories in the book also had the hard liquor kick of a shot or two (or three or four). In other words, Greenfield's poetry/prose was intoxicating, and I decided I would read only one piece a day in order to prolong the pleasure. Then Freddie died and all my plans went out the window. I kept reading until the book was gone.

During his last few months, I had seen Freddie around Boston, and even though we shared a common affection for at least one Combat Zone tea room, the truth is I nodded hello to him maybe twice and said little more than "Hi" the couple of times I'd seen him at the GCN office. *Were You Always a Criminal?* was, then, my real introduction to Freddie Greenfield's life and times.

Of course, the age old questions of autobiographical fiction are begged with this collection. What's the truth? What's fake? Did this really happen? The most important question is, do these questions matter?

Continued on page 9

FREDDIE GREENFIELD FAREWELL

By David Emerson Smith

Oh sweet heart — sweet heart
Why did you leave us so forlorn
Darling I love you
You are my kind
We move in the same circles
Freddie you're just a con artist
that's right that's right — I confess
Oh yeah I'm a con — what of it
You're just a cocksucker
A cocksucker — Freddie Greenfield
Oh — you finally figured it out
You're a little slow
Fishing for ripe cocks
On Key West reefs — seeping semen
was natural for Freddie
green fields of hay
growing up gay in Amerikkka
My heart bursts in my chest cage
the bird flutters and wants
to flee the chest cavity
wants to join you sweet heart of mine —
sweet heart of mine — sweet heart of mine
Oh dear — sweet dear — staring
L Street — I was thinking of staring L — Street
pricks with you — L — Street pricks some circumcized
and some not circumcized
large and tiny too
We'd survey this terrain
enjoying the sexual expose
Oh say can you dig those clams
South Boston clam diggers

digging — digging — afraid of his own
afraid of his own cock
Poor Southie Boy
afraid to touch it
only can kill it
before/it grows
love — disease
and Freddie embarrassing me
didya — didya see
that cock — Freddie
please Freddie
you're embarrassing me
Bare ass boys
Bare ass boys
shameless hussies
in L Street steam rooms
steamed clams — drawn butter
but P town was another dream
more accessible —
Protestations of
art association
We bicycled down there
strong young faggot cyclists we
Free — just discovered freedom
the right to persevere
against the dead
Macho Military World
Fags Love Freddie Greenfield
spray-painted across a wall
at Land's End/San Francisco

WELL ALL THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT

This poem by Freddie Greenfield is reprinted from Fag Rag #12, Spring 1975

Lucien! Come here! Come on!
Do I have to come and get you? Har?
Lucien a dog. My dog I suppose. A female daughter of a bitch. Named after Jean Genet's Lucien, from the book 'Our Lady Of The Flowers', not by me but by another published poet, David Emerson Smith who I've wrote enough crap about already. Well I take the dog with me every morning for coffee to a donut shop run by a Greek. I drink two or sometimes three large coffees and she eats a plain donut which I crumble up so she won't wolf it down in one gulp and puke later on our livingroom rug.

Well all that's beside the point.

What I'm really talking about is my voice. My poetry and what makes it for me.

What makes it is the emotional quality of the phrase or cliche. Lucien! Come here! Come on! Do I have to come and get you? Har?

You see it's not the dog that evokes that impatient response in me. Shit! I don't blame her. She's eating chicken bones thrown out of a Spanish restaurant yesterday. I wouldnt deny her that. Hell, it's a score for a dog, but it might rain or something and I wanna get home and write this...what I'm writing now.

What I'm getting at is I'm sick and tired of seeing essays by established well known poetry pushers on how to write poetics or how one of their latest offering came about.

So I said to myself: What the hell! Fuck it!

I'll do it too. Or something like that, do you understand? Well all that's beside the point also, if you no what I mean.

What I mean is I could write the same thing about Roberta Mona Damnucker which is a recent alias of Robert Dargon, published poet who lives in the same house I do, but I don't, or I do actually sometimes under my breath. By the way Mona was the dog's original name someone gave it at birth. Well that really doesn't mean anything.

Let me give you an example.

Me and R.M. Damnucker are going downtown and the bus is leaving in five minutes and he's still putting on makeup or combing his wirey long hair and I think almost out loud.

Damnucker! Come here! Come on!

Do I have to come and get you? Har?

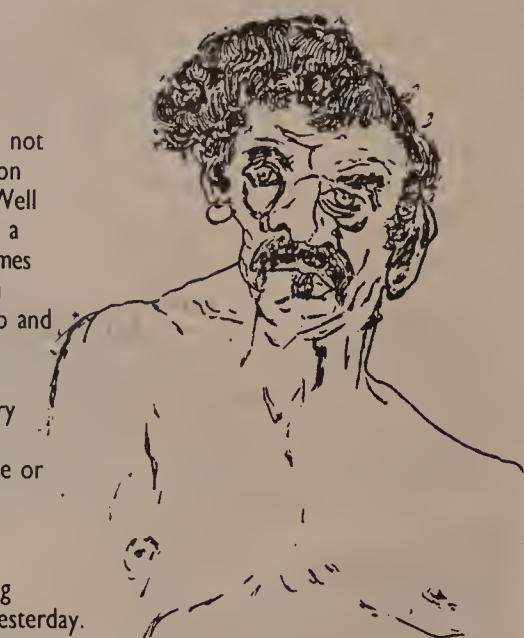
Can you imagine that name is on the mailbox, Roberta Mona Damnucker, right alongside Stonewall Nations Incorporated, which is us too, and then my name, Freddie Greenfield, published poet with a book coming out soon, and another name Malchow, two Goddam drunks we're kicking out, evicting bag furniture and baggage when the official legal court notice arrives sometimes next week and then the only people we'll have move in are other male fags who can pay the rent. The Malchow's by the way are a straight pair, man and wife with two dogs and a cat who stink. Not the dogs and cat, they don't stink. The man and wife stink.

Well all that's beside the point.

Well what the point is is that this is poetry, period.

My poetry. I don't care what the hell anybody says.

It's good, real good.



freddie

This poem by Freddie Greenfield is reprinted from Fag Rag #19, Spring 1977

oh those L streets jiggling their handballs
and privates getting hard stares
steam tongue sweating room
i take him home my bike in his trunk
back again laying in the sun
sand beating down
endurances swim under water above
i float beneath cold showers
converse with hidden clam beds
sea gulls empty shells
humans curse cut toes
barnacles cling in clusters
my friend roger wants to know
and i don't have answers not even questions
water comes and water goes and is always there
and i am and why bother asking
i'll always be there wherever i just was
never in the now having left
before i arrive
and there are no mysteries
the ocean is as deep as it will ever be!!!

The self-portraits on this page are from Freddie's sketchbooks

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Last words

Continued from page 7

did that I did it account of Jay Oh yes yes Jay Jay Hambro I said I was going to ask you about him about Jay Hambro how is he he isn't Doctor Morris Hyde told me Jason Hambro is dead dead from an overdose of strong imitation heroin a designer drug you mean Jason finally died from overdosing on a designer drug so Hyde said he came to me looking for cough syrup so I wrote him a subscription for cough syrup the way it turned out Hyde said was that they were going to take me to court because I prescribed cough medicine for Jason so I told them look here here's my narcotic license number I'm giving it up so then then there was no reason for them to summon me to court for a hearing so I gave it up rather than go through the bother and you want to know something I like it like that without my narcotic cumber see how quiet it is my office the waiting room remember what a madhouse it was before remember Jason would come into the waiting room I'd see him when a patient would open the door to come into my office I'd see him he'd look alright then what I didn't see was that he'd go upstairs and take a shot of that imitation heroin you mean designer drug I corrected yes ten times stronger than heroin well that's debatable I thought

I showed mock incredulity saying to Morris Hyde bad stuff designer drugs dangerous stuff bad stuff at the same time wondering what would it be like taking a shot of the stuff Jason Hambro died from figuring as crazy as it might seem that at that exact moment if the stuff that killed Jason Hambro Jason the boy that used to ask me to kiss him to give him wet kisses just wet kisses that's as far as he would allow himself to go with me fully clothed sitting in his living room exchanging wet kisses if the stuff at that exact moment was available why I'd shoot it up myself Hyde went on and the next time I'd look out into my waiting room there was Jason sprawled out on the chair passed out mouth wide open so this all took place in 1987 two years ago he hasn't had his narcotic license for two years two years later I thought what a shame what a shame □

Freddie's dreams

Continued from page 7

ter? No, they don't.

The 32 short pieces in the book are noir-like slices and slashes of real gritty street life. In his life Freddie was lots of things. He was a masseur. A hustler. A boxer. A carnival hawker. A con man. A junkie. And oh yeah, a skilled writer. Greenfield's words have a jazzy rhythm, sometimes hot, sometimes cool, always truthful. Even when he's detailing such "illicit" truths as the how-to's of a con job. Even when the truth has to cut through the haze of a narcotic cloud. In "Grind Store Agent with a Capital 'F'" the narrator himself is startled when some of his hard core street buddies get all mushy: "My problem understanding the situation is I couldn't believe people I chummed around with went for romanticism... I mean that's how blind being strung out made me."

The drugs are everywhere. "Leaving stuff alone injectable or non-injectable wasn't a question somebody not in the know personally can deal with," Freddie tells us in "Those Young Spanish Queans." And he doesn't spare the details of his drug use or the stealing to pay for his fix by, among other scams, lifting wallets out of the back pockets of unsuspecting blow job recipients (truly giving and taking at the same time). Or the inability to get a hard-on when using. And the stoned surprise when an erection does surface under those circumstances.

The sex details aren't spared either. In "Forget About Mickey Finn and the Jockeys" we learn that "[t]hose jockeys, individuals who've been around the jockeys dressing rooms at various horse tracks have said, those jockeys have some of the biggest pricks they'd ever seen." And tea room cruising is refined to a science. At one point it's the narrator's role to turn his fellow cruisers on by drinking cups full of urine. Freddie just didn't hold back in this book.

With sentences that sometimes read like montages, all starts and stops and starts again, Greenfield's style is nothing if not unconventional. It is also refined to such a degree that I found it surprisingly readable (even though friends have thrown up their hands after just a few pages). If you're absolutely wed to traditional punctuation you may feel challenged by Freddie's work, but if you can read this sentence from "Joe

Busa" you'll do just fine:

And I was impressed with his cock he was selling shoes a lot of dope fiends sold shoes women's shoes every male dope fiend out of Washington DC it seemed to me sold women's shoes at one time or another soons you make a sale Gene told me you can draw money commission....

If that sentence seems like too tall an order I recommend you go back and read it once again, slowly. Like those 25 cent binoculars at the beach you just have to twist the focus knob in your brain a few times and Freddie's words and intentions come into clear view. And once you get a handle on it you'll find there are pages and pages of pleasure awaiting your perusal between the covers of the book (the back of which has part of the author's arrest record reprinted on it) as Freddie leads you through his dreams and nightmares and his own hardcore reality.

Freddie Greenfield built up his particular written stream of consciousness to such a degree that he created a rushing river of crazy, reckless, dangerous stuff. It makes *Were You Always a Criminal?* a must must must read because you can't help but get swept away in its current. □

Political

Continued from page 1

that the literature the grand jury is requesting is readily available at a variety of bookstores. Since the original subpoenas, according to the men, the requests have been reduced to merely supplying letterhead and "some literature."

Bortman said he chose not to comply with the seemingly simple grand jury request because he thinks the grand jury process has been used as a political weapon by the government to threaten political activists. "Ever since the beginning of the Nixon Administration the U.S. has used the grand jury as a tool for the intimidation of political movements — the anti-war, Puerto Rican Independence, Black Nationalist, women's, lesbian and gay, and in this case anti-racist movement," Bortman told *GCN*.

"It's a good tool because it's the place they can make you talk about anything they want," he added, referring to the grand jury's virtually unlimited ability to interrogate witnesses.

Bortman cited a recent case in San Francisco in which a grand jury assembled to investigate police brutality at an anti-Bush rally ended up asking some of the witnesses about the protesters themselves, not the police actions.

Because the grand jury in this case could use the opportunity to "go fishing," Bortman and Wells both told *GCN* they would refuse to comply with the grand jury, even if they are jailed for "contempt."

Bortman told *GCN* his non-compliance was important to send a message to government prosecutors that activists will not be intimidated by coercive tactics. He also said that if people like he and Wells did comply, then government officials would be encouraged to use grand juries to thwart other political movements. "They are trying to create an atmosphere in which people cooperate with the government," Bortman said. He said grand juries "really jerk people around" because they use both the heavy threat of jail and the seemingly legitimate pretense of investigating a crime to pressure activists to testify. As a result, political groups are thrown into turmoil, according to Bortman, because they end up struggling over "whether the government is our pal or our enemy," instead of carrying out their intended work.

Bortman said he thought it likely that the AIDS movement and perhaps the reproductive rights movement could be targets of grand jury investigations. He said the increasing activism nationally around AIDS issues would make that movement a likely target. And "as restrictions [on abortions] get more clear and more abortions become illegal," according to Bortman, "grand juries could be used to investigate the pro-abortion movement and doctors practicing abortions."

Bortman and Wells are scheduled to appear at a hearing Sept. 25 in which a judge will rule on whether to quash their subpoenas. The judge could also find them in contempt and sentence them to jail. Bortman said he "had no idea" what would happen, but was prepared to go to jail rather than comply with the grand jury.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago could not be reached for comment before press time.

□ filed from Boston



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Nkoli

Continued from page 1

rested, including Nkoli.

He told the audience that he was interrogated for four days and four nights and was held without charge for 10 months. In 1985 he and 21 other anti-apartheid activists were charged with high treason and two counts of terrorism. When called to give testimony about events he had not participated in, Nkoli said he stumped the prosecutor by "coming out" in the process of giving his alibi: he had been with a gay group on the day in question. The prosecutor was stunned and unable to continue his line of argument. Nkoli was acquitted last year, but six of the original 22 charged were sentenced to Robin Island (a political prison off Capetown).

Nkoli has also been involved in groundbreaking gay organizing in South Africa. He is one of the organizers of the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand (GLOW), a group formed by Black lesbians and gay men "committed to bringing a change in our whole society." GLOW organized a gay pride week last year, and a pride rally this year that drew 120 people. Nkoli said GLOW is currently coordinating a Township AIDS Project to raise awareness of AIDS in the Black townships. "The Black community has not been informed about the danger of AIDS," said Nkoli, adding that official statistics claim that no Black people have AIDS in South Africa. "How can that be true?" he asked.

After Nkoli's speech, Jean McCrae of the Boston Human Rights Commission presented a proclamation to Nkoli from Boston Mayor Ray Flynn. A celebration followed honoring Pat Parker and Joseph Beam, two activist/writers from the Black lesbian/gay community who recently died. Jazz vibraphonist Cecilia Smith played for the crowd and dancing concluded the evening.

The four workshops preceding Nkoli's talk offered insights on cultural differences and making connections between movements. Topics covered were "Linking National Liberation Struggles" with Betsy Revard of the American Indian Movement and Francisco Dominguez of the Lesbian/Gay Coalition for Puerto Rican Self-Determination. Both speakers embodied history in the making: Betsy Revard spoke as the official representative of AIM, marking the first time an openly lesbian or gay person has done so. Dominguez spoke last month at a Puerto Rican march demanding the end of U.S. colonization of the island; he was the first openly gay speaker invited to address a national rally for independence for Puerto Rico (see *GCN*, Aug. 20, 1989). The other workshops were "Black Feminist Politics in South Africa" with Nomsa Gwalla Ogisi, a session with George Swales on AIDS in U.S. inner city communities of color, as well as an update on developments in South Africa with Kim Berman and Aggrey Mbere.

The strategy meeting of groups endorsing "Sharpeville/Stonewall" bodes well for the continuation of substantive "liberation coalitions" in the Boston area and perhaps nationally. As the organizers stressed in the evening program, "If Simon can craft a link between two liberation movements in South Africa, we should expect no less of ourselves here."

To contact Simon Nkoli or the Gays and Lesbians of Witwatersrand, write P.O. Box 23297, Joubert Park 2044 Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. To contribute funds toward the expenses of Simon's tour and to aid his work in South Africa, make checks payable to Rutgers State University/Nkoli Fund, and send c/o James Crede, Paul Robeson Campus Center, 350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Newark, N.J. 07104. □

Stephanie Poggi contributed to this story.

Opera

Continued from page 3

January. (See *GCN*, Feb. 5.) Using creative, highly visible and controversial zap tactics, SANOE has stirred up a heated discourse in the lesbian and gay community as well as the community at large. More mainstream members of the community are afraid it might affect donations to AIDS care organizations. Ron Braithwaite, president of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club called the protest "poor strategy," and one-off quoted opera goer, PWA Matt Miller said, "As a gay person with AIDS, I'm embarrassed by the whole thing!"

But other members of the gay community have expressed their support of SANOE's actions in the pages of the city's gay and lesbian newspapers. *Sentinel's* Classics columnist Bill Huck wrote that, because of official inertia and the capitalist greed of drug companies, "Yes, I sympathize with the frustration that led SANOE demonstrators to act up."

And, in a letter to the *Bay Area Reporter*, one reader, Lee Heller, wrote, "Considering the opera house sits in the middle of the convergence of several very poor, working-class areas, it is only surprising that these charades, where the ruling-class shows off its wealth stolen from the working-class, have not been interrupted with greater frequency." □

Forum

Continued from page 3

cation and around sexual practices. But, I also feel uncomfortable with legislation being the answer to some of these problems."

As a nurse at Boston City Hospital, Swislow said, she has seen a tremendous number of women clients who are HIV positive, especially IV-drug users and their partners and Haitian immigrants who list heterosexual activity as their primary risk activity. In this capacity, she said she has become aware of the social and cultural factors that override a woman's knowledge of safer sex.

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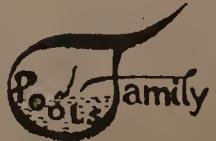
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Nor will they ever see it if you don't get busy and try to get more gay newspapers and organizations to realize that there are good gay and lesbian people in prison who deserve a better chance than they are getting. **WRITE THEM LETTERS!!** Letters to the editor, penpal ad requests, opinion pieces. Make them readable and short, but interesting. Most of them will not be printed probably, but you need to get their attention, tell your story, and little by little win them over to letting you have the space and attention that you deserve (as much as anybody else!).

If you need the address of the gay/lesbian paper nearest you (the one most likely to respond), just ask GCN.

And those of you with penpals might ask your penpals to write the paper they get and say the same thing: gay/lesbian prisoners deserve to be able to tell their side of the story too.

And those of you outsiders who scan this 'Prisoners Seeking Friends' space now and then, would do the prisoner support movement as well as the gay/lesbian movement a great favor by helping connect them up, by 'lobbying' the newspaper or gay and lesbian groups near you to give some attention to people under the boot of a 'justice' system that we all know is at least a little unjust!



I enjoy reading GCN a lot. I look forward to it every week. I'd like for you to print my name in the penpal column. I need someone serious minded in my life that's out there in the free world. Someone I can share me with, and build a friendship with. I'm 30, like femme women, and am not allowed to write women in prison. Cindy JOHNSON, 110615, Box 11492, MBCC-EHU, Oklahoma City OK 73136.

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I'm 28, fully homosexual and go by the name 'Cherry'. I love country music, dancing, eating out and having a good time with friends and my lover. I believe in keeping myself clean, legs and face shaved. I will answer all penpals who write. Scott DeCHAUNE, 399488, Box 4500, Tenn. Colony TX 75861.

Boys young man, into Gay Rights. Certified legal Assistant. Will assist fellow cons looking for an outsider for friendship and support. Please write this young stud soon. Joey ROBBINS, 67291 (4B right), Box CN 861, Trenton NJ 08625.

Brothers & Sisters with AIDS

30yr old Black inmate seeking correspondence, especially from my brothers & sisters with AIDS who can simply be their self with me. I don't want No money. I'd be grateful

calendar

3 Tuesday Pat Humphries entertains at a **Rally for the Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights Bill**, at the State House. 5:30pm. For info: 617/828-3039 or 536-2104.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is/is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet, if possible. Listings must be typed.

23 Saturday

Somerville **Dyke Doctors Potluck**, lesbian physicians group meets bi-monthly. 7pm. 508-376-2812.

Dorchester **Dorchester GALA** annual flea market/bake sale. 4 Upland Avenue. Also 9/24. 9am-5pm. 825-3737.

Boston **Asians Are Talking About AIDS** discussion sponsored by Asian American Resource Workshop and Mass. Asian Lesbians & Gay Men. AARW, 27 Beach Street, 3rd Floor. 2-4pm. 426-5313.

24 Sunday

Boston **Chiltern Mountain Club** hike to Mt. Webster, N.H. Mike, 603-644-7658.

Boston **Alateen Group** open to lesbian, gay & bisexual youth, age 22 & under, affected by alcoholism in family member or close friend. Les/Gay Service Center, 338 Newbury Street, Rm. 202K. 6pm. Dave, 629-2518.

Jamaica Plain **Lesbian & Gay Neighbors of JP** present the Greater Boston Lesbian & Gay Freedom Trail Band. 1-3pm. Margaret, 524-8070.

Boston **Girth & Mirth of New England**, a club for big men & their admirers, is holding a club night at 119 Merrimac. 5-9pm. Denis, 387-0762 or Richard, 846-8442.

25 Monday

Boston **Coalition for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights** holds organizing meeting. Les/Gay Service Center, 338 Newbury Street, Rm. 202K. 7:30pm. Rich, 776-6956.

Boston **Committee to Fight Bigotry in All Its Forms** sponsors a demonstration to protest New England Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, honoring John Silber, President of Boston University. Marsh Plaza, Boston University, 735 Commonwealth Avenue. 4:30-7:30pm.

26 Tuesday

Salem **North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance** will host a film night showing 'Silent Pioneers: Gay Men & Lesbians Out Before Stonewall,' and 'Out in Suburbia.' Meier Hall Screening Room, Salem State College. 7pm.

Boston **Lesbian & Gay Freedom Trail Band** will hold an open rehearsal at the YWCA, 7th floor, 120 Clarendon Street. 7:30pm. Kathy, 424-7025 or Gary, 267-6186.

Boston **Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays** meets at 425 Shawmut Ave., bottom door. 6:30pm. Catherine, 825-2610.

27 Wednesday

Jamaica Plain **Boston AIDS Consortium** sponsors a community forum to discuss HIV testing from a medical and mental health perspective. JP High School. 7pm. 732-0885.

28 Thursday

Boston **GCN Production Night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info, GCN: 617/426-4469.



Weekly events

Saturday

Boston **The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** new training session for hotline. 617/492-RAPE.

Boston **Gay Boston**, with Jim Voltz. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

Boston **Body Electric**: Healing with group sensual massage for gay and bisexual men. 551 Tremont. 7:30pm. \$12. 522-9164.

Sunday

Boston **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY)**. Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. 2-5pm. 354-6658.

Boston **Metro Healing healing group** for everyone. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Boston **Boston's Other Voice**, radio for gay/lesbian community with Peter Stickel. 11pm. WROR 98.5 FM. 9/24 John Stasio on gay male spirituality, 10/1 John Tansy on coming out against resistance.

Boston **The Gay Dating Show**, WUNR 1600 AM. 2:30am. Lesbians and Gay Men.

Monday

Cambridge **Healing Circle** group healing. 5 Upland Rd. 7:30-9:30pm. \$5 suggested. 864-1989.

Cambridge **Lesbian Rap**. 9/25 Affective Disorders, 10/2 Lesbian Rights and the Legal System. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge **Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights** holds bi-weekly planning meeting. 142 Memorial Drive, Rm. 306. 7pm. 776-6956.

Tuesday

Boston **Gay Fathers of Greater Boston** meet 1st & 3rd Tues. of the month. Lindemann Ctr., 2nd fl. 8-10pm. 742-7897.

Boston **Gay and Lesbian Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics**. Faulkner Hospital. 8:30-10pm. Intake interview required. 522-5800 x1908.

Boston **Lesbian and Gay Concert & Marching Band**. No audition necessary. YWCA, 120 Clarendon St. 7:15pm. Joe 625-3304, Zoe 396-2989.

Cambridge **The Group** at Walker Memorial MIT on Memorial Drive. 8pm. 266-1129.

Providence, RI **ACT-UP/Rhode Island** open meetings. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. Bill, 782-9063.

Boston **ACT UP/Boston** meets to confront the AIDS crisis. New Gay & Lesbian Service Center, 338 Newbury Street, Rm. 203. 7pm. 49-ACT UP.

Cambridge **Bisexual Women's Rap**. 9/26 Fashion, 10/3 Dealing with lovers & friends. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. 354-8807.

Cambridge **30-plus Lesbian Rap** 7-8:30pm. 9/26 Aging, 10/3 Gay Portrayal in Film. The Women's Center (see above).

Cambridge **Women For Sobriety**, a self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30pm. 354-8807

Arlington **Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays** meets on the second Tuesday of every month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. Info: 547-2440 or 508-562-5807.

Wednesday

Boston **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth**. Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6pm; women and men meet separately 6:45-7:30; general meeting at 7:30pm. 354-6658.

Boston **Bisexual Children of Alcoholics**. Mass. General Hosp., lower amphitheater 7:30pm. 259-1559.

Cambridge **Say it, Sister!** WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Boston **Women's Self-Defense Classes** sponsored by Women's Self Defense Collective. Studio 3, 731 Harrison Ave., 2nd floor. 6-8pm. \$10-\$35 sliding scale per mo. 625-1115.

Cambridge **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. Women's Center (see above). 6:30-8pm.

Cambridge **MASS ACT OUT** meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. 661-7737.

Thursday

Northampton **Valley Gay Alliance** meets 1st, 3rd Th. every month, basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30pm. 413/527-5310.

Stoneham **Incest Survivors' Group** for women. New England Memorial Hospital, 5 Woodland Rd. 5-6:30pm. Sara Epstein, 979-7025.

Cambridge **Wise Woman Tradition Herbal Medicine and Women's Wisdom Classes**. Sliding scale. Whitewolf, 277-8232.

Boston **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Cambridge **Incest Survivors Group**. Women's Center (see above). 7:30-9:30pm.

Cambridge **Non-offending male sexual abuse survivors** group meets first Thursday of every month. Cambridge Ctr. of Commerce conference room, 859 Mass. Ave. 8:30-10pm. \$5 donation. 498-9881.

Friday

Worcester AIDS Project-Worcester support group for HIV positive, PWAs, PWARCs, supporters. Open to all lesbians, gay men. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Dana 508/755-3773.

Boston **Healing group** for everyone. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Cambridge **Incest survivors group on death and grief**. Short-term. Women's Center (see above). 7pm.

Cambridge **Women's Coffeehouse**. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-midnight. 354-8807.

RALLY FOR LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS

17 YEARS IS TOO LONG TO WAIT
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
THE GAY RIGHTS BILL **MUST PASS**
IN 1989

- ★ The Legislature is in its final weeks of debate on the Gay Rights Bill
- ★ Homophobic amendments threaten to weaken or even kill the Bill
- ★ This is our last chance to show our strength and pride as a community

YOUR PRESENCE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



BE AT THE STATE HOUSE ON TUES., OCT. 3 AT 5:30PM

(In case of rain, rally will be held inside State House)

Sponsored by The Coalition for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

Endorsed by Mass. Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, Boston NOW, Mass. NOW, Unitarian Universalist Assoc., Worcester Gay/Lesbian Alliance, BILGA, Valley Gay Alliance, Gays in Merrimac Valley, Care Cod Women's Agenda, Mass. Lesbian Gay Bar Assoc., Springfield Alliance for Equality